

REMARKS

1. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action mailed July 25, 2007, claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kortum et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0079028) in view of Ramaswamy (U.S. Patent No. 6,423,892). Claims 3-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kortum et al. and Ramaswamy in further view of Nakano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,636,802). Claims 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kortum et al. in view of Ramaswamy. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

A. Claims 1-2

Independent claim 1 as amended recites “a menu screen obtaining unit for obtaining a menu screen including pieces of link information for potential display on the menu screen” and “a menu screen display processing unit for displaying, on the menu screen, only pieces of link information that are associated with accessible linked servers based upon the connection status of each linked server checked by the connection status checking unit such that the menu screen does not display pieces of link information obtained by the menu screen obtaining unit corresponding to inaccessible linked servers.” The cited portions of Kortum et al. and Ramaswamy, including the portions of Kortum et al. cited for previous dependent claim 5, do not disclose obtaining a menu screen that includes pieces of link information for potential display on the menu screen and then displaying only pieces of link information associated with linked servers that are currently accessible, such that the user cannot perform inefficient access operations on pieces of link information associated with linked servers determined to be currently inaccessible. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection to claim 1 has been overcome.

Claim 2 depends upon independent claim 1 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons. Additionally, claim 2 recites “a process of checking the connection status by

the connection status checking unit is performed in parallel with a display process by the menu screen display processing unit.” Figure 1 of Kortum et al. is merely a drawing, and hence cannot disclose performing checking a connection status in parallel with a display process.

B. Claims 3-6

Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action intended to cite Nakano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,430,499) cited in the first Office Action, and not Nakano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,636,802).

First, Nakano et al. is not from the same field of endeavor, as the Office Action indicates. Nakano et al. relates to vehicle navigation systems. Kortum et al. is related to an interface for managing DSL services. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that one skilled in the art of the present Application would not look to combine Kortum et al. and Nakano et al.

Additionally, the cited portions of Nakano et al. do not cure the deficiencies identified above associated with the cited portions of Kortum et al. and Ramaswamy with respect to independent claim 1, even if one were to combine the three references. Claims 3-6 depend upon claim 1 and should be allowable at least for the same reasons.

Additionally, claim 3 as amended “a discrimination mark differs depending upon a level of the connection status and is associated with the corresponding piece of link information, the level of the connection status indicating the strength of radio waves received by the terminal associated with the linked server, the radio waves carrying image data displayable on a network browser or audio data.” The cited portions of Nakano et al. relate to the conventional reception of GPS signals, not signals carrying image or audio data.

Claim 6 recites “the terminal is mounted upon a vehicle and the connection status checking unit checks the connection status of the linked server while the vehicle is stopped.” The cited portions of Nakano et al. do not disclose this limitation.

C. Claims 7-17

Independent claim 7 as amended recites “a menu screen obtaining unit for obtaining a menu screen including pieces of link information associated with linked servers interconnected with a network that are potentially accessible by the vehicle mounted terminal.” The cited portions of the references relied upon in the Office Action do not disclose a vehicle mounted terminal that obtains a menu screen that includes pieces of link information associated with linked servers that are potential accessible by the vehicle mounted terminal.

Claim 7 as amended also recites “a connection status checking unit for checking the current connection status of each linked server specified by the pieces of link information included within the menu screen when a component of the vehicle mounted terminal determines that the connection status of at least one linked server has changed, the current connection status indicating whether the corresponding linked server is wirelessly accessible or not by the vehicle mounted terminal.” The cited portions of the references relied upon in the Office Action do not disclose checking the current connection status of each linked server whenever the vehicle mounted terminal determines that the connection status of at least linked server has changed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection to claim 7 has been overcome.

Claims 8-17 depend upon claim 7 and should be allowable at least for the same reasons. Additionally, the portions of the references relied upon in the Office Action do not disclose the following limitations from amended claims 8-13.

Claim 8 as amended recites “the connection status of the at least one linked server is determined to have changed by a vehicle-speed determining unit of the vehicle mounted terminal when the speed of the vehicle changes and crosses a predetermined value.”

Claim 9 as amended recites “a communication processing unit for receiving image and/or audio information transmitted from the at least one linked server through radio waves, wherein the connection status of the at least one linked server changes when the electric field strength of the radio waves carrying the image and/or audio information received by the communication processing unit is determined to have changed and crossed a predetermined reference value by an electric-field strength determining unit of the vehicle mounted terminal.”

Claim 10 as amended recites “a communication medium determining unit for determining a change of (1) a communication medium or (2) a communications mode, the change of communication medium comprising a change between a wireless Local Area Network (LAN) and a mobile telephone by which data is wirelessly received by the vehicle mounted terminal, and a change of communications mode comprising a change of communication bands by which data is wirelessly received by the vehicle mounted terminal, wherein the connection status of the at least one linked server is determined to have changed when the communication medium determining unit determines that the communication medium or communications mode has changed.”

Claim 11 as amended recites “a geographic condition determining unit for determining geographic conditions of a driving location of a vehicle upon which the terminal is mounted, the geographic conditions of the driving location determinable by the geographic condition determining unit include identified high-rise areas, low-rise residential areas, or mountainous areas, wherein the connection status of the at least one linked server changes

when the geographic conditions determined by the geographic condition determining unit change.”

Claim 12 as amended recites “a road determining unit for determining the type of road on which a vehicle, on which the vehicle mounted terminal is mounted, is running, types of road determinable by the road determining unit including expressways, highways, or other types of road, wherein the connection status of the at least one linked server is determined to have changed when the type of road determined by the road determining unit changes.”

Claim 13 as amended recites “(1) a communication status determining unit for determining communication status, the communication status indicating a level of signal reception for a potentially accessible linked server, and (2) a communication status history storing unit for storing the history of the determined communication status, wherein the connection status of the at least one linked server is determined to have changed when the past communication status corresponding to the driving location of a vehicle is determined to be unfavorable based upon the communication status history stored within the communication status history storing unit.”

D. Claims 18-20

Independent claim 18 as amended recites “displaying a menu screen on a terminal mounted on a vehicle, the menu screen including pieces of link information associated with potentially accessible linked servers,” and “checking a current connection status of each potentially accessible linked server specified by the pieces of link information included within the menu screen when (1) the vehicle is traveling and (2) the terminal automatically determines that a predetermined condition that is a function of driving state and/or driving location of the vehicle has been satisfied, the current connection status indicating whether radio waves carrying image and/or audio data originating from a corresponding potentially accessible linked server are currently wirelessly accessible or not by the terminal.” The cited

portions of the references relied upon in the Office Action do not obtain a menu screen with potentially accessible linked servers and then check the current connection status of each potentially accessible linked served when the vehicle is traveling and when the terminal automatically determines that a predetermined condition has been satisfied. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection to claim 18 has been overcome. Claims 19 and 20 depend upon claim 18 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons.

SUMMARY

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seeks allowance thereof. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the Application but believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any issues, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at (312) 321-4277.

Respectfully submitted,



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